

Claims

1. Process for the continuous production of composite or multi-layer membrane tubes, comprising a porous sublayer (support layer), mainly determining the mechanical strength of the membrane, and adjacent to said porous support layer a second layer of a material of different chemical nature, said second layer mainly determining the separation properties of the membrane (separating layer), said process comprising winding a respective flat sheet composite membrane lengthwise or spirally into a tubular form, the separating layer of said membrane facing to the inside, welding or gluing the edges of said membrane together, either overlapping or by butt welding, and applying on the inside of said butt seam or overlapping area a strip of a sealing material which can be solidified and finally solidifying said sealing material.
2. Process according to claim 1, characterized that the flat sheet composite membrane comprises an additional carrier layer made from woven or non-woven fabric.
3. Process according to claim 1 or 2 characterized by forming the membrane tube by winding said flat sheet composite membrane as a tape spirally around a mandrel or shaft.
4. Process according to claim 1 characterized by using as the sealing material the same polymer from which the separating layer of the membrane is made.
5. Process according to one of the aforesaid claims characterized by applying the sealing material by means of a nozzle.
6. Process according to claim 3 and 5, said nozzle for the application of said sealing material being located on said mandrel or shaft around which said flat sheet composite membrane strip is formed into a membrane tube, and per-

forming the processes of forming the membrane tube, gluing or welding the edges, application of the sealing material on the welding seam or overlapping area in one step.

- 5 7. Process according to one of the aforesaid claims, characterized by applying to said membrane tube, in addition to the carrier layer, one or more porous drainage layers.